

Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) honored Bonny and Peter “Moses” Albanese at a ceremony in Washington, DC today for their inspirational service as foster parents for teens and children in Cayuga County for over 20 years.

“I am proud to honor Bonny and Moses Albanese for their amazing compassion and selfless dedication to so many young people,” **said Arcuri**. “Bonny and Moses have the patience and the willingness to give troubled teens a stable home they have often never known. In the Albanese home, every child is given a chance - often many chances. I am honored to nominate Bonny and Moses Albanese as 2007 Angeles in Adoption and recognize them for their accomplishments in Cayuga County and New York. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty without looking for acclaim or attention.”

Bonny and Moses Albanese have been foster parents in Cayuga County for more than 20 years and have opened their lives and their home to more than 100 children. While fostering a pregnant teen, Bonny once delivered a baby girl in the backseat of her car.

Bonny and Moses have three biological children and have adopted eight teenage foster children. These eight teens spent years in the foster care system before connecting with Bonny and Moses and finding a place to call home.

“If you judge a life by a car or bank account that is one thing, but if you judge the life someone has led by how they have affected the life of just one child that is a whole different story,” **said Bonny Albanese**

. “We have had 120 kids in our home and it has been an incredible journey.”

“Bonny is my hero and I couldn’t do it without her,” **added Moses Albanese**.

Bonny and Moses primarily foster teenagers with juvenile delinquent and Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) behaviors. They have also cared for school age children and sibling groups over their years of working with the Cayuga County Department of Health and Human Services.

Bonny and Moses work in partnership with agency staff and birth parents toward reunification - welcoming birth parents into their home, consulting with them on parenting challenges, and building on their strengths.

They also speak at training sessions for prospective foster and adoptive parents and encourage others to accept the challenge of working with some of the most at risk children in our community.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption oversees the Angels in Adoption campaign which honors a person, couple, or organization from each congressional district that is making a difference in the lives of children through adoption or foster care advocacy.

Each Congressional office selects an Angel each year, honoring adoptive parents, foster parents, social workers, judges, attorneys, adoptees, physicians, nurses, teachers, mentors, and other child advocates.

Each Angel and sponsoring member of Congress is invited to attend an Angels in Adoption awards dinner, organized by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. This event is a special way to honor all of the chosen Angels from across the country. National Angels in Adoption are also awarded as part of the evening's program for their work on a nationwide or international scale.

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